
ROYAL RECOLLECTIONS.

[PRICE TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.]



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ROYAL RECOLLECTIONS

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K George III King of Great Britain

A TOUR TO CHELTENHAM, GLOUCES-
TER, WORCESTER,

AND PLACES ADJACENT,

IN THE YEAR 1788.

THE SEVENTH EDITION.

L O N D O N :

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ROYAL RECOLLECTIONS, &c.

RECOLLECTION I.

OF ROYAL LITERATURE.

I AM the first in the direct line of my illustrious house, who has ventured into the republic of letters. Republic! I like not the word—I shall ask Hurd how it came to be introduced:—with my governor and preceptors, instead of contending about my management, had taught me a little Latin and Greek! When I see them scattered through a book, I have great curiosity to know their meaning; and they are almost the only things about which I am ashamed to ask questions. Hurd has not done much better by George. Ah!—why

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do

do I feel a pang at that name? Am I not a good father!—Let me recollect. No;—I will not recollect on the subject.

James I. was an author. I wish I had Walpole's catalogue. I may be inserted in it:—but I shall outlive Walpole.

The great Frederick has been to me, as Alexander to Charles XII.—an object of emulation;—not for his battles and wars, for which I have no inclinations: but for his summary, and military power; for his discipline and reviews; and for his fame as an author. Fifteen volumes of his works are publishing, and by subscription. Charlotte applauds the subscription. I may leave as many volumes behind me; and, if Charlotte survive, I warrant the subscription.

The title of my first literary production has puzzled me. I suppose it puzzles all authors. If I call it history, it may make no great figure by the histories of Hume, Robertson, and Gibbon. Memoirs are French; and occupied by the great Frederick. *Recollections* are new, except in trifling

trifling matters ; and novelty will recommend. I hope my book will sell. It would discourage me to lose by my first adventure ; and Charlotte would point to the children, and look grave,

RECOLLECTION II.

REASONS OF MY TOUR.

SLEEP is a blessing which seems to have forsaken my house ; I mean the house of Hanover ;—for my attendants and domestics are sufficiently sleepy, God knows ! I love to rouse the whole family before the people are warm in bed. If the essence of the soul consists in motion, mine is the most distinguished in England. My brother Cumberland approaches nearest to me in restlessness, and disregard of sleep. Jenkinson says I resemble Justinian, who allowed himself but one hour in bed ; lived principally on vegetables ; and spent one third of his time in devotion. I spend no private hours in devotion ; all my religious light is seen : and my diet is regulated, not by scruples, but by health.

I am now looking down the vale of life ; have been six and twenty years the monarch of a great and turbulent people :
and

and in the factions which have disturbed my reign, I have been sometimes in the majority, sometimes in the minority. It is a strange situation ; and I often suspect I have been held in it by dishonesty.

The introduction of my family was not by universal consent ; and there were some pretences for adopting the views of party in church and state, to secure a permanent interest. In me, born a Briton !—nobler principles should have been cultivated :—but the wisdom of my mother thought otherwise. She consigned me to a priest, and a borough monger ; and I shall ever be the leader only of a party.

In a period of seventy years, the house of Hanover has not been familiarized to Great Britain. My two predecessors, brave and worthy men ! were strangers to the country they nominally governed ! and if they moved from the fetid vortex of the capital, it was to gratify a fondness for their native soil. I was left in a blaze of false glory, under the power of Chatham ; who had frequently wrested the government
from

from my grand-father: and who insulted my youth and ignorance; secure in the infatuation of multitudes.

Lord Bute would have dispelled the fascination of that impostor; but he had not talents: and the struggle sunk me into disgrace.

The Scots, like Hungry locusts, surrounded me. The sources of venality were drained; and the Scots were not satisfied. The oppression of America was proposed, under the idea of concentrating power; but with the view of obtaining appointments for Scotsmen. I was deluded by the idea; and wished to rid myself of importunities, by offices and taxes, which would have ruined the colonies. Half my subjects revolted at the thought of taxes, without the appearance of representation. I was lampooned and libelled here; sometimes hooted and insulted: engaged in military jobs in America; and was really afraid to stir out of my palaces.

I contented myself with travelling on maps. I passed the surface of Scotland, instructed

fructed in all its beauties by Bute: and I fought every inch necessary to the conquest of America, with Sackville. Poor Sackville! we sympathised in unpopularity. He was a milder instructor than Bute; and he fought bravely on a map! The hills which terminate the horizon of Windsor, have been hitherto, to me, the boundaries of the world; and I feel awkwardly at the thoughts of passing them. Peasants and artificers, I have been taught to consider as enemies! and they have been grievously burthened, to enrich a succession of venal majorities in my insatiable parliaments.—What humor they may be in, and how they may receive me, are serious questions.

Jenkinson treats these apprehensions lightly:—"Assume a sacred character, and put on a brilliant appearance. Though you drain the blood of the people, they will adore you as you pass!" On this account Jenkinson wished to be a lord. The word Jenkinson, was associated in the public mind, with perfidious unconstitutional chicane; and with every species of political guilt,

guilt. He could not pass a turnpike without a scowl or an insult; and the villages set their dogs at him. At the sound of lord Hawkesbury, every hat is off, and every head to the ground!

This Hawkesbury is a singular character! Indeed all whom I have apparently distinguished by my favor, are singularities. In reality, no man has my confidence. An object had arisen, on which I fixed my heart; and my attachments have been regulated by compliance with my views.—Poor North! docile and flexible, more from good humor than interested ambition, he thought himself permanently fixed; and if he had succeeded in America, he would have been minister for life. He saw not far before him; and was so much the dupe of Robinson, and parliamentary brokers, that he extended to the army which invaded America, the maxims of venality and the speculations of party: and he sunk into disgrace with the objects of his pursuit.

I was stunned by the event; and expected to be the object of general hatred:—but I have

have been agreeably disappointed. I lost a dominion equal to Europe in extent ; susceptible of advantages beyond the reach of imagination : but so managed as to become burthenfome to the public, and teasing to me !—and the loss was not felt.—Flimzy politicians, seeing only the inconvenience of abuses, rejoiced in the separation ; and prosperity has nearly obliterated the folly.

Jenkinson is worth all my servants, in patient attention to little advantages ; in watching the fluctuations of great passions ; and accommodating every thing to my views. He has mingled and incorporated the discordant ingredients of parties, so as nearly to destroy their credit : and I may *venture into the country* with hopes of good reception.

My health is seriously injured. Twenty-six years of contention and warfare with my people, terminated with such a loss, have almost annihilated the habit of sleep ; and rendered my disposition restless. Furious walking, riding, and hunting, consume my

C time,

time, and destroy my attendants and horses; but they furnish not peace of mind, or refreshing intervals of bodily repose.

In this state I am advised to Cheltenham; to unite policy with my active curiosity; and to assist in clearing the country of those clouds which the approach of a general election is collecting.

And what is the event of an election to me? Why should I be entangled in the struggles of interested parties? What is the object of these parties? *To be brought to market*; and I am the purchaser.—I wish I had patience to read. Nothing to my imagination is more distinct, than the executive and legislative provinces. Nor do I think laws, without my interference, would be the more likely to be directed against any of my real interests. But ministers and cabinets are aghast when I intimate weariness of parliamentry influence:—they quote Montesquieu and Blackstone; and frighten me with imaginary dangers.

I have

I have waded so far in the waters of corruption, that I must not think of tracing back my steps;—and I will shew myself in the country, *for the benefit of the general election.*

RECOLLECTION III.

OXFORD, BLENHEIM, &c.

I RECOLLECT when I first approached Oxford, that I felt a species of shame; from confined education. The idea of the immortal Alfred struck forcibly on my mind; who was born to create, combine, and establish,—as I have been to sever and destroy. The mind which delineated the British constitution, founded the university of Oxford:—the former, the most beautiful effort of human reason;—the latter, the most magnificent university in the world:—both languishing in my reign. No mode, which artful venality could contrive, has been untried on the political constitution of England; and I had reached the age of fifty, without having seen Oxford, or thought of it, but at general elections.

The number and magnificence of the colleges, halls, libraries, and schools; and the opulence of their appointments, astonished

nished me, even beyond the conviction of their disproportionate utility. Oxford, to discharge its obligations, should have thirty or forty thousand students; and it seldom has one thousand. Since the accession of the Hanover family, it has not harmonised with the court:—and when introduced among the memorials of ancient kings, I appeared a stranger, and not of their kindred.

It is true, Oxford stands not in need of bounty and assistance; it wants reformation and discipline only, to answer the intention of its founders. But who will attempt that reformation against indolent habits so inveterate, and opulence so secured?

I should like to enroll my name among the Edwards and Henrys, who have rendered services to this noble institution—but it will not be my fate. I expended an hundred millions in attempting to reduce America to slavery:—this will be my everlasting memorial!

Every thing here wears an air of superstitious profligacy. The bells are tolling for devotion

devotion every hour of the day; monkish dresses and forms, every moment meet the eye; but not a face indicates religious sentiments:—the students have sauntering idle manners, and the countenances of the professors are all on fire.

My beloved architecture has been cultivated here. I toil through the extensive vocabulary of *vertù*; but I believe it is without ideas. I should certainly have made a good architect! The grandeur of Christ Church, the elegance of Queen's, and the beauty of the Theatre, delight me. Why has not the roof of the Theatre been imitated? The allegory of Truth, solicited by the descending sciences, is well imagined; but interest should be substituted for truth. I love the church;—it is the firm support of that species of royalty for which Charles died, and for which my illustrious house has been gradually forming a passion: but it must be confessed, that interest is eminently the ecclesiastical principle of action. I can influence laymen by various motives—I can secure a churchman only by one.

But

But I will turn my thoughts from these gloomy subjects, and recollect the impressions of Blenheim.

It has been the singular misfortune of my reign;—with an expenditure beyond example in the annals of the world, I have been eclipsed by private noblemen in splendor and generosity. It is true, I have saved millions, as provision for the worst events; and I would not have all my subjects know they are guarded in foreign banks, and cherish foreign circulations. It was Charlotte's favorite plan; and it constitutes a kind of independence. I have asked George, in a witty frolic, "What would you do, George, with five and twenty millions, if you could immediately command them?" He hesitated:—"Your majesty will be offended." "No, no; speak your mind!" I thought he meant to build and furnish an haram. "I would pay them to the last shilling towards discharging the national debt!" I burst into a laugh at the romantic folly of the youth. "What! return the money whence it came!" He was irritated

irritated at my mirth: " Yes, fir ; and
 " mitigate the miseries occasioned by its
 " accumulation." " Come, George," said I,
 " don't affect patriotism ; the national debt
 " is in a way to be paid." " What by ac-
 " cumulating the public burthens? If I
 " could reconcile myself to such hypocrisy,
 " I would expend ten millions a year, and
 " every farthing should go to the encou-
 " ragement of industry and talents in my
 " own country !" and he abruptly left me ;
 but with that conciliating grace, which no
 temper can resist ; and which, united with
 prudence, will render him the most popular
 king in the world.

To return to Blenheim—The ground has
 been royal ; and the story of Henry and
 Rosamond throws over it the air of ro-
 mance. The infirmities of love have ever
 been those of great minds. I have not those
 indications ; but they abound in my son.

The high stile affected by the family of
 Marlborough ; the disdainful epithets with
 which old Sarah ever alluded to the house
 of Hanover ; the liberal state with which
 Blenheim

Blenheim has been supported ; and the magnificent encouragements occasionally given to the progress of science at Oxford, impressed me with sentiments of disparity unbecoming my situation: and when the park gates were thrown open, and presented the noble view of the palace and landscape, I felt not like a great king visiting a subject.

It is true, the present owner inherits the prudence only, not the genius, of the great Marlborough. In the obstructions of lineal descent, all brilliant talents were lost: but worth, decorum, and domestic virtues, compensate the defect ; and an extensive influence, mildly applied, renders Marlborough great and respectable in this country. He leans towards the administration of the day, from constitutional prudence ; and we have nothing to apprehend, unless Bedford should fix his heart on one of his daughters.

I was charmed with the coup d'oeil at the entrance into the park ; but started at the bust of Louis XIV. at the front. Elizabeth

D

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beth was pleased with his countenance; the duchess said he was the king of France; the duke corrected her, "he was "the French king." Charlotte nodded and smiled as she does when "God save the "king" is struck up at the play-house.—I can imagine how the daughter of Maria Theresa would look at Charlotte on such an occasion.

The collection of pictures is princely; though I own I know nothing of pictures. The inscription on the pedestal of the column in the park, and Victory crowning the duke of Marlborough on the ceiling, made my heart bleed. If such a man as the duke of Marlborough had invaded America!—but I will think no more of it. Charlotte and the princesses were much amused with the paintings. I took sufficient time, as usual, in examining them; but if I were to make my choice, it would be Tenier's monkeys, in the habits of monks. I wonder Bunbury does not sketch the present clergy from the animals they resemble;—the archbishop of Canterbury, a spaniel;

a spaniel; archbishop of York, a tyger; bishop of Durham, a goose, &c.

Apropos of ecclesiastical dignities — I have conferred them in great numbers; and I am satisfied with Thurlow as the best *ecclesiastical broker* I ever had. Profligate in his own principles, and at heart indifferent to all, he sees only the point of interest in which every benefice may be placed. The object of his inclination and power is to depress scrupulous and conscientious minds; to have but one opinion and one will in the country; and that dictated by him, dictating to a cabinet. The sudden elevation of his brother was, however, beyond my opinion even of his assurance. Two boys, designed for Norwich weavers; the descendants of a degraded family, (if any thing could be degraded in the service of Oliver Cromwell;) the one of moderate abilities, and very confined knowledge; the other, an incorrigible blockhead:—at the head of the law, and nearly at the head of the church of Eng-

land ; are instances of the lavish exercise of power, not easily exceeded in Turkey.

Indeed Marlborough must feel awkwardly on the advancement of a tutor from the second table of his family, into an archbishopric, where he is entitled to precedence of his patron. What is the reason ecclesiastics are peculiarly disposed to intemperance ? The luxury of Lambeth has attracted the land and water rats of Bowstreet ; and the pious primate has lost a service of plate which could not have been furnished by the whole property of the twelve apostles.

The duke seems attached to the clergy, probably for the reasons that determine me. They are the most steady instruments of influence, as they formerly were of power. One of them presented me, in the duke's name, with Alfred's translations of Boethius, on the very spot where Alfred is supposed to have made them ; and the fycamores are held sacred where the palace stood which sheltered the birth of Edward
the

the Black Prince, and which was so effectually demolished by Oliver Cromwell. How wise my late dissolution of parliament in its first moments of restiveness, and chusing another to obey my will; and that by a youth, whose early and intuitive hypocrisy astonishes me, accustomed as I have been to its arts from the moment of my birth!

NUNEHAM

IS rural, picturesque, and would be comfortable, if it were not infested with theatrical grimace and sentiment. The nobility of this family is from the political services of law; and lawyers' families may soon fill the House of Lords.—No matter; a few odd individuals excepted, they are as supple as the clergy, and as easily held in the great road of profit and honors. They are likewise more useful; for as every event is to be attended with a mock debate, it is necessary I should, on all occasions, have the greater number of speeches in my favour.

The collection here is trifling.—I observed the Queen attentive to the picture of the
duchess

duchefs of Gloucester—What brothers and sisters I have! and they have lately distinguished themselves, and celebrated their country, by travelling!

The gardens would be pretty, if the spectator were not sickened with sentimental instructions for his taste and affections on every spot. If I were not the head of the church, I would say, “this is a damned provoking custom!” and I do not in my heart love those amphibious animals, who are half actors and half gentry.—I will now and then see a private play; but not one shall ever infest my family.

RECOL-

RECOLLECTION IV.

CHELTENHAM, JULY 12, 1788.

I WONDER whether my physicians, prescribing this place, have taken into the account the fatigues of the journey. I traversed the *Cat's Path**, at Windsor, an hour before my usual time, and was obliged to exert myself to call up the people. The crouds on the road to see me, have been prodigious; but they generally bowed to lord Courtown. Charlotte wishes I would leave off the brown bob, and wear a German major. I am thought to have too much German already. "What," says Charlotte, "in your blood; that is not from me;" Whence are the complaints of the children?—A queen of England privately dressing issues in their arms; and some of them barbarously mangled for white tu-

* The path which the king takes in a morning to call up his family, and sometimes his attendants, is called the *Cat's Path*.

mors.—Charlotte persists “ they are not “ from me.”—What can it signify whence they are, if they may be cured? And other families find a cure for them.

Oxford is bursting into a flame, because Rowley applies for a degree; and his offences is, having formerly benefited a noble family, by a medicine unknown.

Seeing the distress of his mother for me, and some of the children, and observing a phycophant physician directing palliatives for radical and constitutional evils; George advised her to send for a box of Velnos’ Vegetable Syrup. Charlotte looked grave and offended: which is not usual in her conversation with George. He delicately saw her objection; and dexterously placed two holy bishops, those of Petersborough and Landaff, between him and his mother; who he declared, recommended it with as much zeal and perseverance as if it were their property.

The queen loves bishops; and Swainson would have superceded all the physicians of the household, if, on mentioning it to
Pro-

Porteous, a true priest, and after the queen's own heart, he had not demurred against any thing coming from bishops in opposition; and particularly from Watson. It is true, Watson is not as he should be. He is restless and ambitious, and would have an opinion of his own; he is therefore no real churchman. Immediately on ascending the bench, he recommended a mode of equalizing the portions of the church revenues. One step further, in allowing the parishes to chuse their ministers, and the clergy would have been of no utility to administration, or to patrons in its interest—in short, the *alliance of church and state* would have been totally dissolved.

In the consideration of the commercial treaty, he discovered the spirit of a demagogue. But Porteous has pointed out a circumstance to Charlotte, which most effectually precluded his advancement, as well as the influence of his medical opinions. He dedicated theological tracts to the queen; the most remarkable of which have been written by dissenting socinians. I

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know not precisely in what consists the heresy of focinians ; but they are dissenters, fond of innovation, and inimical to the influence of the crown.

The Cambridge bishops must, therefore, confine their favourite nostrum to the university ; for Velnos' Vegetable Syrup shall not approach our family.

By the way, is it not a statutable offence, for the heads of houses to recommend the use of a nostrum in an university ?—Mem.—to consult Markham and Hurd on the subject. The faculty, at least, may be instigated ; these instruments of opposition may be rendered unpopular and odious ; and that is not to be neglected on the approach of an election.

In the appointment of bishops, I wish more attention were paid to their *principles*.—I thought the chancellor was guarded against moralists, men of science, and persons disposed to inquiry ; for inquiry always leads to innovation. Horsley is a man after my own heart ; he keeps the provinces of letters, and theology, distinct ; and would
circum-

circumscribe the latter with fire and faggot, if the humor of the times would admit of them. Hinchliffe, Watfon, Shipley, and Ross, are *dissenters in masque*; advocates for toleration, and fond of reform.

SUNDAY, 13.

SLEPT four minutes and ten seconds longer than usual at Windsor; a proof that the air agrees with me. My appearance on the terrace last night had a good effect on the people; and I expected the little town would have been set on fire by the illuminations. This proves they neither resent the loss of America, nor the accumulation of taxes. I thought it best to be grave and stately on my first appearance; but I excel in the arts of familiarity. I have nodded and capered to the band at Windsor, until the whole terrace has roared out a boisterous laugh, in which I heartily joined. Charlotte is not cordial in these condescensions; but she has not dissipated her German stateliness and gravity; and knows not if we make the people laugh

their hearts are always with us. They shall laugh heartily whenever I appear.

At six, drank the waters ; and I mean to observe all their effects. As to their nature, the physicians are as ignorant, as of a nostrum. They contain salts, iron, sulphur, and earth ; but in what proportions nobody knows ; and those proportions are variable, and at hazard, from the variations of the strata through which they pass. It seems to be a low and despicable state of physic, which depends on the rude and uncertain pharmacy of nature. But the faculty is an order in the state ; and it would weaken my influence to shock the prejudices, or to hurt the interest, of any order.

The attendants are very ceremonious about my royal hands and my royal lips ; but the water observes no ceremonies with my stomach and bowels. It would be an eternal subject of laughter against me, if I should be driven to expose my royal parts under a hedge ; the queen would faint at the idea ; and the princesses would not shew their

their faces at Cheltenham. I must, therefore, calculate probabilities in the movements of the waters, and my own; and must beware of public accidents.

No time to read the newspapers;—the only compositions I peruse;—on account of preparations for church. I spend as much of my time in churches, and I hear as much sacred music, as any monarch in Europe. I hope these things will qualify me for heaven. I do not, however, much relish the thoughts of heaven;—no distinction of ranks, no privilege of family; none but *levelling* principles take place there. I wish the clergy would review the doctrine, and establish it on more monarchical ideas.

The bishop of the diocese has thought fit to take charge of my soul, during the operation of the waters on my body. Comfortably as he is provided for, he will think it hard to look for his reward in heaven.—Hallifax is the competitor and relation of John Jebb, of discontented and seditious memory. He obstructed the projects of
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that visionary at Cambridge, by an early acquaintance with his intentions; and pursued the line of obedience and promotion, while the other tore off his garments, harassed his friends with reveries, and sunk into the grave in poverty and vexation.

I love to see a smooth and oily bishop, who has secured advantages with the artifices of a Jew, insisting on the meakness, simplicity, and disinterestedness recommended by the gospel. It is a solacing proof the people will bear any contradiction or inconsistency of professions and pursuits. They regret the tythes, and cheat the collectors; but they would trample to death the daring reformer who would remove their oppressors, or dispute the sanctity of the constitutions by which they are impoverished. On this single pivot rest all the regal and ecclesiastical powers of Europe. But things will hold as they are for my life, and that of my immediate descendants. As to remote posterities, they are not included in my anxieties.

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In my ride, lord Courtown threw out some religious hints, not being used to attend me on Sundays ; for it is not my custom to think of religion, after discharging its public duties.

RECOL-

RECOLLECTION V.

MONDAY, 14.

LEFT the queen, as usual, in bed ; and called up the princess royal. The queen sleeps abundantly more than I do ; and yet she has as many anxieties. She wishes some of her daughters married ; but royal marriages are not often happy. My sisters afford lessons on the subject, which the queen has frequently given the children. The princess royal has a reserve and hauteur which would suit a northern court ! but Charlotte will not hear of Denmark. Our alliances are very confined ; and the princess has been inquisitive this morning on the circumstances which regulate them. The waters, in purifying the blood, may possibly accelerate its motion—“ What,” said I, “ do you think of marriage ?” She looked cloudy, but not displeased. “ Well, well, I’ll get a husband for you !”—“ You must change the ministers,

“ nisters, then, for they do not love the
“ sex.”—“ What, what,” said I, “ are you
“ turning patriot, as well as George?”

PRINCESS.

I wish the prince were married.

KING.

Horne Tooke swears he is!

PRINCESS.

You do not listen to such men; my brother is amiable and noble!—

KING.

Hush!—He countenances those who would drive me out of the country; or take away all my power in it.

PRINCESS.

We have often heard you say, you would be happier without the powers, which are the objects of factions.

F

KING.

KING.

Ho!—ho!—You are becoming a politician ;—remember George !

PRINCESS.

I wish my brother could marry suitably to his rank and accomplishments ; into France, Spain, or Austria.

KING.

And you—to the emperor.—What, you are not satisfied with stadtholders, electors, and dukes ?

PRINCESS.

If rank, and not choice, is to determine, I should like to move in the highest !

KING.

But religion, child !—the protestant religion !—

PRINCESS.

The world seems disposed to indulge all religions.

KING.

KING.

If I were to marry either of you to a roman catholic, fir Richard Hill, and lord George Gordon, would form a new faction. The very guards would desert me; and I should have my palaces about my ears.

PRINCESS.

I wish my brother were more among us. —The queen caught the words as we got up stairs, and was very serious on indiscreet conversations with the princess; said, she was thoughtful, discontented, &c. What can I do? If George were cordially to return to court, with an income suited to his rank; if the maxims and manners to which he inclines were introduced, I should be lost in the blaze of cultivated arts, and the splendor of collected talents:—he would find some means to obtain our treasures, and would scatter them through the streets rather than suffer them to accumulate. I wish I could live another century. A fifth part of our treasure, on the principles of compound interest, would, in twenty years, ren-

der my minister the vizier of a divan ; and clear the springs of the monarchy of all their impediments and obstructions.

I do not love reasoning with women—and was glad to escape to my horse. Presbury grotto is a romantic object, and Ulett is pretty. But lord Courtown. does not furnish me with any new phrases on landscape. That is the advantage of West. He is to me an elementary treatise on all matters of taste ; and George says, he will never go beyond the first elements himself. He is, however, very useful to me. Sir Joshua, and Gainsborough, and Barrett, and Romney, were mutes. They assented civilly when they approved ; and fixed their eyes on the ground, when they disapproved.—West is indefatigable in making me see with his eyes, and judge by his conceptions.—What is to be done, when I cannot see an inch before me, and have not leisure to form conceptions ?

RECOL-

RECOLLECTION VI.

TUESDAY, 15.

THE newspapers of last night shortened my rest, and accelerated the operations of the waters in the morning. Mem.—to lessen the dose, when the newspapers have disturbed me. Westminster will be once more in a flame. Pitt says he shall lose his character, if all the means of extinguishing it be issued from the Treasury; and that the civil list must contribute a moiety. I have declined public tables; I have boarded with the queen in habitations which look like out-houses to my palaces; and I have harassed the circumstances of the prince, in order to save from the civil revenue. But parliament is a bottomless gulf. I wonder the people do not see its inutility, when majorities are secured; and save the expences of corruption. But, who is the people? or, where is the people? It is a bugbear, no
 where

where to be found; and employed by artful partizans to frighten credulous guilt.

Pitt and Dundas do not mean to meet Fox in the contest, but to fight by deputies. Dundas is an arrant coward, and Pitt's courage is vapouring gasconade.

It is extremely mortifying that Westminster, the residence of my court, nay, of a numerous Parliament *in the confidence* of my servants, should, in fact, be attached to my enemies; for I reckon every man my enemy, who opposes and limits my prerogative.

Pitt, himself, says Hood is in danger; and that our hopes are in the inability of the party to sustain the expence of a contest. Hood served our turn very well, when the *reflected glories of the twelfth of April* were new: but general Prescott has whispered through the country the whole business of St. Kitts; and there seems to be no doubt, if he had shewn half the bravery he affects in the Chesapeake, the fate of America would not have been decided so shamefully. Besides, the man lives shabbily, and does not sustain

sustain the appearance of a gentleman. His whole family, even his cats and dogs, are supported by the profuse hospitality of Barwell, both in town and country; and he lays up his income for a booby lordling, who will never put in claims for public favour; and who will console himself with the inheritance of the father's disproportionate rewards.

I wish they had started a new candidate; the expence would have been less. But the Hoods are the clients of the Pitt's.—Hence the neglect of Rodney. Poor Rodney!—But a king should have no common feelings!—

Zounds! I shall run mad!—My Recollections are broken, by a representation from lord Courtown and colonel Digby, that it will not be proper the royal family and attendants should go into the public rooms, without subscribing! We shall never go to their balls; and wish we had not peeped into the rooms! I must go to the queen again! Schwellenburg will rave herself into fits!

Thank

Thank God, it is settled moderately!—
they had the conscience to advise a hundred
pounds for each subscription. It is fixed at
fifty to Moreau; and twenty-five to each
room. I wish the Westminster election were
as well over.

RECOLLECTION VII.

WEDNESDAY, 16.

THOUGH the papers arrive late, they occupy my first Recollections at this time. It is strange they are not better managed, the expence being so considerable. Walpole often declared, of all venality, that of the press was the most unprofitable. "I pay thousands, said he, for writings in my favour; and they are not read; they are good for nothing: while lampoons and satires on me, are replete with wit, and fought with eagerness."

What a creature is this Topham! to claim the pension of David Hume! Atheism cannot guard his shade from resentment at such indignity;—and yet Rose says he must be gratified. When all the papers are paid, their utility is over; and we differ only in illusion from the kingdoms who have none. This is the state we should be in, according to Jenkinson and Dundas; who, I must al-

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low,

low, are not disposed to expenditure. Pitt affects to despise them ; but Dundas says, it is palpable affectation, and that he reaches them by indirect modes. Sheridan is the man for the papers: Steel is too cautious and gentleman like ; and Rose, once a purser, and forever a purser. Let the allowance be what it may, the writers are poorly paid ; and it does not answer the purpose, that the purser grows rich.

Is there no method of reforming this d—n'd *World*? I can get nobody to decypher the paragraphs ; and I have English, Scots, Irish, Welsh, French, German, and Dutch, about me. The praises are sign-post daubings, exposing the objects to ridicule ; and they are so indiscriminate, as to be no compliments. The same epithets serve for the queen, and Mrs. Wells ; and I shall be laughed at through Europe, by being inclosed in a parenthesis with Topham and Bell. But all things in government are connected by strong links. Rose and Dundas cannot be dispensed with at
this

this time ; and Topham must be paid for keeping up the laugh at *our expence*.

Let him have a hint, however, *to moderate his personal courage* ; and to check Bell *in his perpetual allusions to bum bailiffs*.

Adzooks! what a robbery! The large diamond of the Devonshire George. I have seen the queen's eye intently fixed on it. I'll go and tell her she will be taken up on suspicion.—Egad she was ready to cry.—Suppose it were brought round, it must not be purchased under value: and such a present would not be made, but with a view to change the ministry. She has an astonishing passion for diamonds. The poor milliner—poor indeed she is not, thanks to smuggling ; on dressing her for the birthday, displayed a large ring.—It fixed Charlotte's attention. “ What a fine ring you “ have, Mrs. B—!” The woman was frightened, knowing her disposition—“ Please “ your majesty, I had a few old diamonds, “ which I had set for the day.” We were hurrying to court ; the milliner escaped,

and will never more appear before the queen with a ring.

How wonderful that a small pebble, dug up in Golconda, should fascinate the fancy, and affect the fate of kingdoms! Hastings' wife not only found her way to court under exceptionable circumstances, but dazzled our senses away.

How little is the business of Hastings understood! And how imperfect the information of history! They talk of immortal fame in its compilation. If the materials are not more authentic than our newspapers, history is only a romance.

Hastings found his way, not only to my favour, but to my good opinion. That was communicated to administration; and the enquiry would have been thrown out of the Commons. Opposition, whose perceptions are keen, understood the situation of things, and was disposed to avoid disgrace. Scott insulted and defied the enquiry, with the fatality which ever attends his interference. One day only preceding the determination to impeach, I communicated

cated to Pitt my wish, *that Hastings should preside at the board of controul*, soon after the rejection of the impeachment, which had then been firmly determined. I saw his countenance change: he instantly affected doubts concerning the prudence of shielding Hastings by the influence of the crown, in the house; and hinted, that Dundas would be lost to administration; which I did not believe.

In four and twenty hours, Pitt and Dundas apprized a sufficient number of their friends, there were impeachable matters in Hastings' conduct: they pronounced those *candid* speeches, which astonished the house, nay even the nation; almost deceived opposition; and they sent the governor general to stand at the bar of the lords for a twelvemonth, *that he might not preside at the board of controul*. Rumbold and Impey, exciting no such apprehensions, are voted immaculate: the *mediate* murderers of lord Pigott, skulk obscurely, but unmolested. Hastings is the scape-goat of India; and if his soul is to bear its sins, the torments

ments of hell should be multiplied in intensity and horror.

But he must not be lost!—He will employ for some time the first talents of opposition ; and when discharged, honours will soothe his sufferings ; and his talents and knowledge will check the rapacious and unprincipled wiles of Henry Dundas. He shall be confidential minister for India, as Jenkinson is for Europe.

RECOL-

RECOLLECTION VIII.

THURSDAY, 17.

THIS Westminster election absorbs my political Recollections. Baker told me to keep my mind calm and serene. He has the manner of a priest. His family is ecclesiastical; and I am told he understands Greek better than physic. Jebb's attention was to music; Hebberden's to natural history and religion; Warren's to money. Quacks only study physic, as dissenters principally study the scriptures. If there were no quacks and dissenters, a general torpor, ignorance, and profligacy, would invade the professions of divinity and medicine. Now a Priestly, a Velnos, a Price, or a James, rouse the mercenary bands of regulars, who dose in their fortified factions; and some bustle and benefit are the consequences.

But neither quacks nor regulars could compose my mind during the uncertainty
of

of events at Westminster. The Shakespeare club is formidable. That idiot, Topham, brands it as low and needy:—Rose should reprove his folly;—he knows not the mode of throwing dirt at the houses of Bedford, Devonshire, and Portland. What have we to oppose to them? The *mottled* offspring of Lady Grosvenor; Macnamara, the produce of low gambling and fortune-hunting; Churchill the apothecary, who presumes to call himself gentleman, on the credit of his deceased brother; and John Horn Tooke! Heavens! what revolutions have arisen in my time! If I could touch for the evil, as I can for patriotism, the spring of Cheltenham might flow in peace; and candidates would not wage mortal war for the recipes of vegetable syrups. John Horne has thrust his head into my net:—of all conversions this is the most extraordinary. Junius wrote to to be silenced; but risked his life in every line. The plan of Wilkes was obvious; and while he holds a lucrative office by the city influence of administration, he will be quiet and docile. But Horne's imprisonment
made

made his fortune, by its effect on the credulity of old Tooke; and it gave him leisure to become a grammarian; the only circumstance for which he will be remembered with respect.

What can Horne want? He cannot return to the church:—his indecent profaneness, and debauchery, would not admit a decent veil. The benchers at the Temple have rejected him; and Bearcroft says he cannot retract. Pitt advises Bearcroft to be out of the way, and to pass Horne to the bar. I should like to put the unprincipled tendencies of such minds to the utmost stretch; to revive the star-chamber; and to appoint Horne the judge. The atheists of the reign of Charles were the most prone to intolerance; and I have no doubt but I could make Horne send Gibbon to the galleys; take off the ears of Priestly; and send David Williams to Newgate for life. This is the triumph of prerogative, over the varying affectations of principle and patriotism!

Horne shall go to the bar, and into the house!—he will snarl at opposition incessantly;

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santly ; but he must not write. Hurd's opinion pleases me ;—he may have found out the meaning of conjunctions and prepositions ; but he is a stranger to the beauties of English style, and writes in the dialect of Billingsgate. Have we no such writers as those of the *Rolliad* ? I am sick of the quaint monotony of the *World* ; and I hate the pamphlets under the direction of Rose.

My ride to Tewkesbury has been of no service, so much are my thoughts perplexed. It is a borough, and I must visit it again. Oh ! I recollect how it stands—One of the members is a quiet, decent, conformable man ; the other is the *chattering starling* on the coalition. Martin's folly was of use ; and Dundas says he may be easily fixed, allowing a little scope to his oddities. Digby hinted something of a battle of Tewkesbury, and the contest of the two roses ; but they are matters of antiquity beyond my reading ; and my mind is so divided by anxiety, and the diverting thoughts
of

of Horne's conversion, that it has no relish for distant events.

When Rose gave the first intimation of Horne's desertion, I was curious to know what had lately impelled his irascible temper. He said the prince had neglected the honours he had conferred on Mrs. Fitzherbert. What a profligate wretch, to pay court to the prince in a manner that might disturb the public peace; and immediately pass over to administration, the despicable tool of a corrupt election!

He affects to take merit for his silence in the business of young Crespigny; to all the particulars of which he is privy. I will make him extol the clemency of my guards, in suffering the people to walk the streets; or he shall not have his wishes gratified in being called into political existence. So much for renegade patriotism!

RECOLLECTION IX.

FRIDAY, 18.

WHAT a contrast this morning at the spring, between lord Bathurst, and the foldier cutting out watch papers!—The one inviting me to his seat, to display his wealth, and to put in his claims for the promotion of his son; the other industriously earning a scanty subsistence, by an ingenuity foreign to his former habits. They have both been my servants. — But how different in their motives? and how differently rewarded!—The bar called lord Bathurst, lord *Absque*; playing on the title of Apsley; and intimating, he was a lawyer *without* knowledge, and a chancellor *without* talents! but he was subservient and conformable: a negative merit of great importance at the time.—I must see his house and woods: they have been the haunts of genius; and though genius is seldom in harmony

mony with me, I have a pleasure in tracing its former steps.

The old foldier at his watch-papers, makes me sometimes feel as a man ; and when Charlotte and the princesses ordered specimens, I had momentary dispositions to be generous. Those are dangerous dispositions in a prince ; and I check them, recollecting the prospect of a general election, and the necessity of saving for my numerous family. God forbid that such an object should ever present itself to George !

Pitt says, Apsley must be fixed at the Admiralty. I asked if he had ever been at sea ?—No, certainly, was the answer ; and it could be of no importance, as business of offices is generally executed by the principal clerks. “ What in yours, for instance ? ” “ No, not wholly.” “ Pray which of the “ offices do you really execute,—that of first “ commissioner of the treasury, or that of “ chancellor of the exchequer ? ” “ Your “ majesty is pleased to be witty. You must “ recollect, when the coalition threw go- “ vernment into dismay ; when even the
“ hairs

“ hairs of Thurlow’s wig stood erect ; I
 “ was solicited to stand between your odi-
 “ ous cabinet and the public, who would
 “ not have borne the countenances of Shel-
 “ burne, Jenkinson, or Dundas. Your ma-
 “ jesty did not then require me to be ac-
 “ quainted with the duties of my offices ;
 “ and when I objected my own ignorance,
 “ the answer was,—hold them ostensibly,
 “ and you shall be instructed and support-
 “ ed. We only want a skreen, without ob-
 “ vious spots, between us and an irritated
 “ people ; and those whose hands are stain-
 “ ed with the most pernicious crimes of a
 “ late administration, shall desert their prin-
 “ ciples, direct your movements, and se-
 “ cretly accomplish the purposes we dare
 “ not avow. On these assurances, I con-
 “ sented to brave the ridicule and astonish-
 “ ment of the nation. If my supports are
 “ withdrawn, I will withdraw the skreen ;
 “ for the emoluments of all my offices are
 “ necessary to the formation of my fortune.”

I was silenced. But the term of this boy’s
 insolence shall not be long ! Hypocrisy so
 con-

consummate, and so early, borders on impossibility. I had been accustomed to look up to Shelburne, as the master of this art. Every muscle of Shelburne's (I should say Lansdowne's) frame is versatile. But hypocrisy in him seems to be nature, and not principle; for he would employ his right hand to deceive his left, rather than *not deceive*. Pitt is actuated by a solemn deliberate perfidy, which holds one object for ever in view;—and that is his own interest.

I tempted him with superior advantages to those of his present situations; as I wished to divide them; but he saw the snare, and refused the *pells*, to secure his footing. He has pushed his foolish brother into the admiralty, to provide for his necessities, and to procure a vote in the cabinet against the chancellor, who rules it in *my absence*. How Thurlow will take it is yet doubtful, but not very important; for though he is of great use in the oratorical sparrings of the lords, he has no influence but over old Stafford's wife and daughters, whom he teaches to read poetry, to save expence. She is a political

political vixen, as my poor mother experienced; and the henpecked old lord has a little interest. I am not, by any means, for disobliging him in favour of Pitt; whose power is becoming formidable; and who silyly steals from me, much more than Fox would have openly taken.

Charlotte justly observes, the Chatham family will ever be *on the parish*—she means on the public. The glorious Pitt, as the foolish rabble call him, was always a pensioned beggar; first to the duchess of Marlborough, in the interest of Toryism; and afterwards to government, in all its varying measures. Poor Pynsent starved his relations *to leave his fortune to an impostor*. Hollis had made a will of the same kind; but meeting Chatham at Lyme, he exclaimed—
 “He is hollow, noisy, empty, vain, and
 “insincere! I will tear my will, and leave
 “my fortune to a man who makes no
 “public pretensions.” He was true to his word, and Brand Hollis got himself into prison, for the crime which his benefactor abhorred above all others.

I hate

I hate these patriots! and I am astonished at the credulity of the public, which affords them credit in endless succession. Pulteney took off the mask when he had acquired a princely fortune:—the Chatham family continue it; because a princely fortune will not answer their wants. Charlotte, in ordering new bodies for the childrens' old frocks, grumbles at the hints of Dundas, that Pitt has secured for himself, and his immediate connections, near sixty thousand a-year!

RECOLLECTION X.

SATURDAY, 19.

HA! ha! ha!—I have set an ambitious blockhead on the toilsome and fruitless project of moving a wooden house. If he succeed, he will be a pecuniary sufferer, for I have bargained prudently. But he will be celebrated, and shall have fame. How magnificent it will appear in the foreign gazettes!—"The king of England, during his residence at Cheltenham, ordered one of the houses of the town to be conveyed into a park, near his residence, for the reception of his second son, the duke of York. Machinery was immediately applied to the house; and it was conveyed as by magic, &c."

I love fame; but can obtain none! Foreigners credit libels only; or newspapers in opposition: never those retained by my minister. The most favourable opinion of me, is a good sort of a man;—scanty in talents;

lents; with a voracious indiscriminating memory, and unceasing volubility of utterance; totally unacquainted with political science; and a verbose pretender in literature and the arts. I have made bold efforts to obviate these sentiments. When Herschel discovered a planet, I took him under my protection, on condition it should be called by my name. All Europe revolted at the absurdity; and not an astronomer out of England (and the astronomer royal only in England) will call it *Georgium Sidus*.

I directed *Banks* to have proper papers in the royal society to secure this appellation; and to magnify the importance of the discovery, *as compensating the loss of America*. Banks did all in his power; but declared no good could be done with the society, until all the old independent members were gone, who were in habits of intimacy with Franklin; and they were replaced by noblemen who would render the society the instrument of my pleasure. That Banks is an odd animal:

with the physiognomy and gait of a savage; with a fortune to render him independent; and with a love of knowledge to occupy him—he is a servile courtier. A spy on the philosophical world—he enables me, unperceived, to direct my influence against impertinent and innovating genius; and I have, by his means, facilitated foreign negotiations, and gratified the vengeance of German despots on men of letters who have taken refuge in England. Pitt wanted his place for lord Mahon, before Mahon disoblighed him in opposing the plan which he adopted from Gale, the American, for the payment of the national debt. Pitt was justly provoked, that Mahon should not have produced his thoughts *to him*, as he certainly should have adopted them in preference to those of a stranger; and as, in a matter perfectly unintelligible to himself, he would have proceeded with more confidence under the direction of a relation. “No;” says Mahon, “I will not labour, when others have the profit and fame. You employ a dozen
“ fags

“ *fags* to collect the materials of a single
 “ speech; and suffer many of them to re-
 “ main in difficulties, while you wallow in
 “ wealth, and are hailed by a venal parlia-
 “ ment, as a youth of astonishing abilities.
 “ I will not *lend you my brains*; they shall
 “ appear in opposition, and they will be re-
 “ cognised as my own.” Thus the brothers
 quarrelled; and Mahon cannot be *president*
of the royal society.

Lord Kenmore paid his court here; be-
 cause he could not at St. James, as a roman
 catholic. The papists have nearly relin-
 quished all hopes from the Stuarts. Lord
 Kenmore warmly invited me to Killarney.
 It would be an adventure to pass over into
 Ireland on a visit to a catholic. What a
 combustion I should occasion at Dublin!
 where government is a system of jobs that
 would disgrace *Duke's-place*.—I should like
 to surprise the rogues. When the Ame-
 rican war broke out, I visited Mrs. Wright's
 exhibition of wax-work. The old hag—
 a furious American—came up to me, and
 seized the button of my coat;—“ Why
 “ don't

" don't you go to America yourself," said she, " instead of hearing the lies of your governors?" " It is the first invitation I have had, Mrs. Wright."—I wish I had accepted it; however impertinent the messenger. I will go to Ireland. I will see all my European dominions before I die; and I shall possibly learn, *too late*, that nothing imaginable can be easier than to silence their murmurs, and to render them prosperous and happy.

While I utter a good sentiment, or form a good resolution, the newspapers arrive to obliterate them. The introduction of sailors at Westminster has produced riots. I rejoice I am at a distance. I hate riots. For though the guards are faithful to me, and inimical to the people, a powerful torrent might burst their bounds and overwhelm me. The soldiers, and the Westminster Justices, it is to be hoped, will terminate the business.

RECOLLECTION XI.

SUNDAY, 20.

THE occurrences 'at the spring want novelty. The people crowd the church on Sunday ; but they seem satisfied with seeing us.

Employed myself, after service, in visiting people at their lodgings, in the manner of the emperor. Charlotte has great veneration for the German emperor, and could not for some time be reconciled to the thoughts of his familiar visits. I like them vastly, as filling up my time; and God knows, I have time enough from five in morning till twelve at night. I must be a little more on my guard than at Windsor, where if I had continued my familiarities, I should have depopulated the neighborhood. The doors were shut up and barricaded the instant I appeared; or a single servant would peep out at the window, and declare earnestly, " there is nobody at home."

“home.” I have hunted families out of closets, cellars, and coal-holes, when they were not disposed to a little chat with me in a morning: and the business of the mouse-trap occasioned some uneasiness. I stopped at the house of an officer’s widow, meaning only to ask questions on her situation. When I burst in, every place seemed deserted. In searching the kitchen, and examining its contents, I found a little machine with a bit of cheese in it. I put my finger to the cheese, and the machine pinched me so horribly that I bellowed out. The servant came in; the widow left her hiding place, and with a thousand apologies liberated my finger. I cursed the accident; but could not avoid a laugh on being told I had been caught in a *mouse-trap*. By *long* and *minute* examination, which I bestow on every thing to kill time, I understood its construction; and set the trap, meaning not to call again until I thought some mouse had been as unfortunate as myself. I told the story to Charlotte; and began my visits, in charge of the widow’s mouse-trap. But
 though

though Charlotte is not jealous, she is prudent. I have no gallantry ; no insinuation ; and my volubility is not the manner which engages women. It was not the thing, however, in Charlotte's opinion, that I should employ myself *about the widow's mouse-trap*.

Lord bless me ! the papers are full of self-murder ; and they convey the accounts here on a Sunday, when prayers and sermons have depressed my spirits. Say and Sele ! it is not common to hear of a lord's departure in such a manner.—Hesse, I suppose, could settle his accounts no other way. Such events will affect George ; but I cannot say they move me. Hallifax observed, they are owing to the decline of religion, and the prevalence of infidelity. I should think, if the common people believed firmly in the promises of their religion, they would dispatch themselves with alacrity into the other world. A king has no motive for quitting this ; and I am not in danger of suicide.

RECOLLECTION XII.

MONDAY, 21.

I HAVE made the people here get up early. They succeeded me so rapidly at the spring this morning, that we drank it dry. It seemed so like jollity, that I led a general huzza; which terminated in a laugh. Hunt is now become my constant companion. He knows every inch of the country, and there is not a farmer with whom he has not had some litigation. I see he is hated in the neighborhood! but he gives me the minutest information relating to it; and he clears my way, for none of the country people come within six yards of his person.

Mrs. Jordan is arrived. They announce a player as they do a prince; because he sometimes mimics royalty; or because he is important to general mirth. Mrs. Jordan is the only public favorite, who thoroughly pleases me. The puffs of newspapers

papers may buoy up Siddons, Kemble, and Brunton; but there is abundant affectation and artifice mingled with their merits.— Little Jordan is, in all points, the very thing which the poet must have intended; and she is the only performer existing, who makes me perfectly forget I am in a play-house. I will see her; and have a hearty laugh. Laughing does me more good than the waters. Chesterfield was a fool in not perceiving its utility; and what is useful cannot be unpolite.

It drizzled a little in my ride; and made me think of the ice storm in France. I asked Digby, if he thought it probable we should have such storms in England? He only said, he never heard of any. He has no smattering of philosophy. Court-town will speak about any thing. I should like to have a natural philosopher in my suite; but he may chance to be thoughtful and mute. I will speak to Banks on the subject. I hope he will not propose himself.

The state of France is critical;—I was pleased to see it harassed; but I like not

the language of its remonstrances. This d—d philosophy, with its rights of nature, humanity, and reason, is the mortal and irreconcilable enemy of power; and princes have a common interest in suppressing it. I do not mean natural philosophy; the professors of which are as tame and compliant as those of religion. I mean the spirit of disquisition into right and wrong, in institutions and duties;—they call it the higher philosophy:—it is cultivated by the votaries of ancient morality; and branding them with the odium of atheism, does not destroy their credit. I am astonished the clergy cannot silence them. In England we pay two millions a year to a mercenary band, to defend its religion, and maintain its credit; and it is with difficulty we can procure one to go out against a deist, though his hands be tied behind him by penal laws.

If a reformation take place in France, it will be on a plan of greater liberty than that of England; we must then follow, instead of giving, the example. Scotland,
Ireland,

Ireland, and even India, will require emancipation ; and I shall be reduced to be only " first among my equals."—Mem. to hint to Rose, that the commendations of French resistance, in the ministerial newspapers, are not agreeable.

RECOL-

RECOLLECTION XIII.

TUESDAY, 22.

THE wooden house stopped my way.

The queen is indisposed, and when ill, is superstitious;—so am I. She thought the obstruction ominous; and that some mischance would befall us at a distance from the guards, &c. I only *appear* to be unguarded here. Harrington's regiment is within call; and is sufficient, according to Amherst, to prevent any thing that can arise here. I walk alone near Windsor; but it is always with troops at small distances.—This has the appearance of confidence, with the security of despotic suspicion.

I forgot to tell the queen, when impeded by the wooden house, I jumped the ditch:—one omen against the other.—When I had cleared it, I laughed, and the people laughed. I had not my glass out, and could not perceive their meaning.

ing. Charlotte says, I am still vigorous, but becoming clumsy. A few lessons on boxing would be good exercise; but George has been reflected upon for encouraging it; and I must not attempt what is unpopular in George. I suppose Sheridan is a proficient, or he would not have collared a Westminster justice; who is generally made out of a brawny mechanic, and understands bruising.

The duke of Beaufort is come to invite me to Badmington. This is mere ceremony; for I have mortally offended that hot and haughty Welshman. He has more family pride than money; and he wished to be master of the horse: but his parliamentary interest is nothing when opposed to Northumberland, or Montagu. The Welsh counties and boroughs send single members; and he has only moieties of a few of them.

The queen likes the notions and manners of all the Beauforts:—they are Celtic or Teutonic, and analogous to those of Mecklenbourg.

RECOL-

RECOLLECTION XIV.

WEDNESDAY, 23.

THIS day I devoted to packing and arranging for the excursion to Gloucester. If I did not attend to the several wardrobes of the family, no income would sustain the expence! I asked George once, if he knew the number of his coats? He said he did not; but would obtain me the information if I chose it. He would not miss a diamond or a pearl; and would be stripped, if I did not commit him to proper people. The papers have been jocose on my locking up the queen's petticoat, when trimmed for the birth-day. It is often covered with diamonds, to the value of seventy thousand pounds; and the jewellery of the family is worth three hundred thousand! George would leave them about the rooms like common pebbles. I cannot sleep when they are all collected under my roof; and I should miss the smallest article in a moment.

RECOL-

RÉCOLLECTION XV.

THURSDAY, 24.

MY first visit to Gloucester will be memorable; as the great cities and towns of the kingdom have long been strangers to their kings. I had no idea they wore so much the appearance of antiquity; and did not participate of modern and convenient improvements. The confinement of the court in London, not to call it imprisonment, has drawn every thing there, as to a centre; and the inhabitants are angry if the minister does not detain parliament three-fourths of the year.

The crowd of spectators, in our approach to Gloucester, was very great; and it alarmed the queen, as it was the first time I was really in the power of the people: lord Harrington having sent only a small part of his regiment into the neighborhood. Every thing passed off very
L well:—

well :—the farther from London, the more superstitious the people both in religion and loyalty ! We had ordered prudently to have our head quarters at the bishop's palace ; it gave an air of sanctity to our proceedings. The bishop's children scattering flowers at our entrance, was dramatic. The queen perceived the artifice, and returned it by kissing them. In viewing the cathedral, and the pin manufactory, I could not avoid recollecting Jenkinson's comparative mode of estimating such fabrics.

Jenkinson, *if he could occasionally forget his own interest*, would be a good politician. —He hates cathedrals and corporations in his heart, though he adores them in appearance ; and estimates a thousand modes in which their revenues might promote industry and population. In comparing the cathedral of Gloucester and the pin manufactory, he would have stated their respective capitals ; the estates of the church twenty, perhaps a hundred, times the sum employed in the manufactory : the one indefinite

definite in good consequences, by the support of industrious families; the other, a nest of drones, useful to administration only once in seven years. I cannot adopt these sentiments.—I recollect James's opinion,—no bishop, no king;—and yet in surveying old cathedrals, and old castles, I cannot help measuring the ground they occupy in imagination, and computing the uses to which it might be applied. But in a country, where one-third of the land is waste, we may afford room for cathedrals and old castles.

RECOLLECTION XVI.

FRIDAY, 25.

THE infirmary and prison at Gloucester were the first places of the kind I had ever seen ; and infirmaries and prisons, I think, are analogous ; the first, places of experiment for young surgeons, who are trained, like blood-hounds, to acts of cruelty ; and the latter, scenes of useless misery for those who cannot compound with magistrates, constables, and beadles.

Howard has found a way to immortality, by suggesting accommodations for those unfortunate wretches. The tenantry of the county suffer for the profusion of building materials now using about prisons. Hunt, and Sir George Paul, are erecting monuments to their memory—enormous burthens will keep the people humble.—What we want is to clear the lower offices of justice of those filthy vermin that infest them ;

them : and when the guilty are discriminated from the innocent, their punishment should be severe and exemplary. The idea of solitariness, Howard has borrowed from the Bastile, and other prisons of despotic states :—it will have the same effect here ;—wretchedness will terminate in insanity.

Gloucester has suggested several new plans. The plan of Sunday schools originated with a printer and bookseller here, whom I had the curiosity to see. This is also a popular idea, which *I must seem* to approve ; though it has many exceptionable circumstances, which Jenkinson suggested on its first appearance. The learning and discipline of schools *disqualify children for labour*, give them tender habits, and ambitious views. An encroachment is made on the *class of labourers*, to furnish trade and manufactures with hands, which they do not call for ; as the children of the manufacturing towns are sufficient for their purposes. These therefore must go, with the pupils of parish schools, and foundling hospitals

pitals in London, into the classes of thieves and pickpockets. Sunday schools would be barbarous prisons for the children of manufacturing towns, who are fastened to their work all the week; and in other places they will lessen the number of *labouring peasants*, which are furnished by vagabond uninstructed boys, always exposed to the weather, and accustomed to hardship.

I have no peace of mind during this election at Westminster!—I wish I had thrown the *reins of parliament* into the hands of Fox, instead of suffering them to be purloined from me by Pitt, Thurlow, and Dundas! *Macnamara* is murdered! This is the consequence of introducing the failors. The foldiers would have managed better, with two or three trading justices. Who is *Macnamara*?—An Irish gambler and fortune hunter, made into a gentleman by the daughter of old Jones, the Lincoln's-inn miser. What a supporter to a *virtuous* administration! Stackpoole tells a tale; which, if applicable to the lowest retainer
of

of opposition, would furnish the materials of a pamphlet to Horne Tooke, and innumerable paragraphs in the ministerial prints. I hope the blockhead will die of his wounds ; as a *bloody funeral* would have a good effect ; and the tragic event would furnish our stupid hirelings with a subject ; which they have not talents to invent.

I can hardly believe the old duchess of Beaufort, whose pride borders on insanity, would permit her daughter, in the very *depth of ostentatious woe*, to canvas against Townshend. Rutland was brutalized to a degree, that no woman could regret him.— Queensbury says, and he knows all the *bagatelles* of great families, that while he attempted any thing decent and tolerable in appearance, he was under the direction of Jack Townshend ; who made his speeches, wrote his letters, and was the cicisbeo of the duchess. But the duchess *has no heart* ; and never made a lasting *impression* on any. In a state of intoxication, he took liberties with her in a coach ; and a rupture ensued, which

which her husband never repented. I do not wonder she wishes to be revenged on Townshend; but Charlotte says, *it is not for the transaction in the coach.*

What a contrast between this vain unfeeling doll, and the duchess of Devonshire! Animated with intelligence and goodness; the friend of merit in every form, I regret the politics that withholds her from court. Charlotte is not fond of her. She draws too much attention; and attention to her, is attachment: for every thing she says and does interests affection, and heightens esteem. How firmly attached to Fox! Indeed how justly! but he awes my genius, and annihilates majesty, by his prompt manliness, and rapid resolutions! I will not think of him; though I am sufficiently sickened by a profligate bully as the agent of my conscience, and the jostling and hypocritical chicanery of Jenkinson, Pitt, and Dundas.

RECOL-

RECOLLECTION XVII.

SATURDAY, 26.

I SHOULD have had no difficulties from invitations to dinners, but for the attachment of the queen to etiquette. At lord Coventry's, the view of the grounds and park, creates that species of bustle in which I delight. But the hills here draw showers; and they respect royalty as little as they do beggary. I had a little conversation with Coventry on parental affection. He spoke the language of a genuine convert to a step-mother. If George were reduced to the condition of Deerhurst, I should be obliged to take him to my arms, or the nation would run mad. What does Coventry want? He is profuse and unremitting in commendations of present ministers and present measures; and wishes they would frequently call upon him to bear his testimony in the house of lords.

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Queensbury and Salisbury are arrived. I had some jokes with them. I cautioned the old beau to have mercy on the Gloucestershire girls, who would drop in covies before the charms of his person and address. I saw Elizabeth surveying his whole figure with satyrical curiosity. Charlotte would not forgive me if I were to ask her thoughts. He is an old battered butterfly ; who, if reduced to the exercise of his real talents, would hardly keep himself from starving as a journeyman taylor. But he has rank, fortune, and parliamentary interest both here and in Scotland ; and he is always with the minister and court.

Aylsbury, with a spare and hectic habit, would do well to come here on duty immediately after the honey-moon. He thought it dangerous to permit his lady to canvas at Westminster, after he had set her passions a-float. But the pretty fellows are all on the other side. And we declaim on chastity and virtue.

I can obtain no good reason, why a person of Pitt's youth and health should be
averse

averse to women. Bridget Tollemache says, the determination of all the juices are towards his head and lungs. His mother might have managed matters with Pulteney, on the first blaze of Pitt's good fortune; but the daughter could not endure him. She is a spirited girl.—Mem.—to ask Pulteney, why she was educated at a convent; and, why the crown of her head is shaved?

Aylsbury will be unhappy, if it be only for having furniture in his chamber. A formalist should never marry. Aylsbury's bed-chamber had only his bed, and a small cabinet. He undressed on the floor, that he might not admit a chair to harbour dust, and produce fleas. What a revolution his wife will occasion in his habits!

The idle gentry here are meditating a private play; and they very properly call their club *The Lounge*. It is unaccountable that Richmond, the penurious Richmond, should take the lead in such expensive amusements. I have had some thoughts of sustaining a part myself as a performer;

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but

but Charlotte was averse; and I could not
 suit my fancy. I thought Siddons a good
 model; masculine, imperious, and royal;
 and she read several plays for me; but my
 organs moved too rapidly; and the matter
 was dropped.

RECOLLECTION XVIII.

SUNDAY, 27.

I HAVE played in a religious farce this day. Ay! says Charlotte, there you are a capital performer! I rumble over the responses, and keep up the noise and bustle of the service with great effect. The corporation of Gloucester, in meeting me at my entrance, made a grotesque appearance. The duke of Norfolk by the side of a tallow-chandler. Augusta said, he looked a little ashamed. What a character! and what a situation! The first duke of the realm, having just emancipated the family from the shackles of a disadvantageous superstition, and without issue; the patron of genius, taking little trouble to discriminate; and the friend of virtue, with perfect inattention to appearances. If he understood his own strength, he might propose his terms at St. James's.

The

The public service was splendidly performed. If the clergy were masters of their profession, we should have no dissenters or methodists; and they would be valuable allies to administration. I had droll recollections and feelings, when seated on the bishop's throne. Hallifax consigned it to me, I suppose, as head of the church. I could not help thinking of the various machinations which had been formed on it; and the characters which had occupied it in the gradations of ecclesiastical preferment. Among the shadows which passed before my imagination, Warburton seemed the most mighty;—unprincipled, and brutal, he employed his force for the interest of the hierarchy, as he would have done for the devil, if he could have rewarded and promoted him. Tucker, a similar, but more feeble character, early missed his way. He thought to have rendered commerce, as Warburton had rendered poetry, subservient to ecclesiastical views. It is nearly over with him; and his deanry may be useful at the general election.

MONDAY,

MONDAY, 28.

NOT worth recollecting—Charlotte not approving my appearance at a country fair, displaying my knowledge as a farmer, and buying a horse at an extravagant price.

RECOL-

RECOLLECTION XIX.

TUESDAY, 29, AND WEDNESDAY, 30.

I MEANT to have distinguished Tuesday by my visit to George Selwyn ; a wit by profession, and with whom I was prepared for a contest. But on repeating it, the princesses laughed ; and Charlotte hoped I would not write it down.

Received an invitation to visit Bristol—said I was not well enough to eat turtle. It is a rich, but stupid place ; and abounds with dissenters. Apropos—I have had no message from Birmingham—the principal nest of sectaries. They imitate all religions there, as they produce false coins ; and with the same views. Priestly is reviving Socinianism ; and passing for novelties the rags and tatters of a forgotten heresy. He goes to the very shore of infidelity ; but he prudently stops, where his interest will allow no further license—and the man who could not render his talents of importance
to

to the political distresses of Landsdown, makes a considerable income from the versatile credulity of the *bonest* people of Birmingham.

Wednesday evening, I entered, for the first time, a country play-house ; but Charlotte would have it royal, before it received my sacred person. She has an opinion we have something holy about us. If I were to consecrate a church, it would be peculiarly benefited. I suppose I shall be invited to Birmingham—May I not serve a meeting-house as I have the play-house ; and, by a *consecrating letter*, render it fit for my reception ? The king of Prussia, on his accession, went to the principal churches of all the sects in Berlin ! The clergy here would not bear the proposal ; and if I were to disoblige them, Charles Fox would immediately *become a zealot* ; and I should find the house of commons filled with implacable patriots.

Many of Pitt's private confidants are dissenters ; and yet Pitt is *at heart a tory*. Wilberforce, Beaufoy, and the Thorntons, have

N

fucked

sucked the venom of disaffection : but they are renegadoes ; and acting under a species of shame for their former connections, no real inconvenience is to be apprehended from them.

It is remarkable that the fortunes of these men should have been made by smuggling ; and that they should have suggested Pitt's measures against it. I have been well assured, that an old sinner in one of those families, who in the famous connection of Hull, Liverpool, and Clapham, made prodigious sums by smuggling tobacco, allots fifteen hundred, or two thousand a year to rescue his soul from the devil. Should it not be paid into the treasury, and not in charity ? for by taking the merit of charity, he defeats every effect of restitution ; and the devil will have him as surely as if he did not bestow a shilling. Dundas would manage such a fellow very well, if he were amenable to the board of controul ; and would direct his conscience into the proper channel. If Dundas had any equity in sharing the fruits of his manœuvres, he
would

would be the best minister in Great Britain.
—He secures the prize, and leaves not a
trace of the transaction.

THURSDAY, 31.

INVITATION to Hereford from lord
Oxford.—The queen put me in mind of the
cyder-tax.

RECOLLECTION XX.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1.

THIS is the anniversary of the accession of our family to the English throne: an event celebrated for some time with enthusiasm by the friends of liberty ; but the enthusiasm has evaporated *on their familiarity with its blessings*. The Stuarts were ill advised :—the real power of the crown was never so great as at the present moment ; but it is not assuming and tyrannical ; it always moves in a masque, and saps the rights of the people unperceived. The lords will soon be as numerous as the commons ;—the excise will be universal ;—the police will rest on the army ;—and taxes will be levied by *farmers general*. Pitt has made considerable progress in the attainment of these objects, and without alarm ; for the *people only* are injured. Fox stumbled on an iniquitous, but powerful monopoly ; and the danger of the India Company

Company alarmed all the *chartered villainies* of the kingdom.—We had the address to call this patriotism; and Fox was lost. The annihilation of all the charters in the kingdom would be a national blessing of *ineestimable magnitude*.—The minister who extends the excise over the smallest village, on any pretences whatsoever, should be torn to pieces by its inhabitants.

We drank the pump dry, in honour of the day; and the band playing “the lad’s alive.” I could not help capering a little before lady Mary B——y, and crying out “the lad’s alive;” and I do not yet mean to die. Lady Mary is prim and sententious about music. I love plain intelligible old tunes, and the noise of Handel’s chorusses. The commemoration of Handel will turn to good account.—Jenkinson learnt the mode of combining charity with interest, of the duke of Northumberland; who presided at hospitals, and encouraged subscriptions wherever he could secure votes: and Jenkinson will render even a musical fund, an engine of influence. A hint has
been

been given of a literary fund ; and the committee of the privy council is enquiring its destination. Care must be taken to prevent the independence of men of letters ; and if the plan be introduced, it must be regulated to *our views by the clergy*. Prettyman advises the idea of provision for poor curates to be tacked to it ; which would frighten away the subscribers, or secure the management in our interest.—Mem. to be very attentive to this business, as' it is of great importance. If the press were free from influence and power, *government would be modified in a few months*.

The duke of York has brought down Bunbury.—My face will not *bear caricature* ; and this Frederic must tell Bunbury. George laughs at my calling Frederic “ the hope of the family ; ”—I mean only in prudence. I am very sensible *George is worth all the houses of Hanover and Mecklenburg, in real talents and dispositions of mind*. But I dread his popularity ; and must contrive that his youthful imprudences be regarded by the people through *reflectors*. Frederic
covers

covers a little mind, destitute of important information and good qualities, with the veil of prudence and œconomy. If Frederic were king; Lansdown, minister; Pitt, chancellor of the exchequer; Wesley, archbishop; and Wescott and Eden, Secretaries of state,—government would be effective from its *harmony*; and it might rival that of Cromwell in hypocrisy.

Saturday, August the 2d, Sunday, 3d, unproductive of new events.—Monday, 4th, heavy from presentiment on the fate of the Westminster election.

RECOLLECTION XXI.

TUESDAY, 5.

DREADFULLY alarmed—The *lunatic World* brought in *mourning* for the discomfiture of Hood. The queen shrieked: her children being dispersed over the earth and waters, and not encouraging any reasonable hopes. They have been dreadfully educated; and they make proper returns. The younger sprouts no sooner touched the soil of Germany, but they discovered their nature: they have abandoned all appearance of study and restraint; and are emulating the sailor in low dissipation, and the arts of licentious and petty despotism.

Pitt is taken ill at the event of the Westminster election.—The sailors should not have been introduced. Fox is the favourite of the common people; and they were furnished with a pretence for riot and violence. Horne Tooke, and *our* newspapers, are to “cry thief first.”—But the
arts

arts of Bow-street and of St. Giles will not do: the manner of assembling the sailors was too bungling:—artful occasions should have been created for the *guards*.—They are only *armed citizens*; and with a little address in their introduction, they may terrify, maim, and murder those who are unarmed, whenever the views of administration are endangered.

With the impression of this defeat, however, I am obliged to visit Worcester.—Hurd has a beautiful and noble situation at Hartlebury, in the centre of his diocese; with power and privileges which I do not enjoy at Windsor. And of what is this the reward? Of his classic taste and learning, there may be no real doubts, though some are suggested. Is it the reward of his theological, moral, and political writings, which are only sustained above contempt by cautious plausibility, and a laboured smoothness of style? Is it the reward of *his education of my son*?—the prop of my years, and the *hope of my kingdoms*? If rewards were administered with

a retrospect to duty or merit, a cell in Newgate should have been substituted for the charming residence at Hartlebury.

“ Set a beggar on horseback,” they say, “ and he will ride furiously.” He has displayed here the power and inclination of a tyrant. A village skirts a romantic common, which is a mere circumstance in the light and shadow of the landscapes from the castle. The inhabitants are rapidly increasing by the introduction of manufactures: they applied to Hurd to inclose, and build on the waste; and alleged their own accommodation, the encouragement of manufactures, and the future benefit of the bishoprick. He answered, “ the bishoprick “ will not be benefited in *my time*; and as to “ trade and manufactures, they are too much “ encouraged; they destroy all order and “ subordination; and foster insolence and independence. You shall not have an inch “ of the waste.”—This is truly episcopal!

The situation of Worcester is pleasant; the streets are spacious, and the houses look cleanly. The country must be very populous,

populous, or the people very foolish; for the crouds were so great that we could hardly make our way into the town.

RECOLLECTION XXII.

WEDNESDAY, 6.

THE wretched inhabitants had no sleep last night, understanding I should traverse the town at five or six in the morning.

I asked the mayor—a curious figure!—how long since they had been visited by a king? He knew nothing of the matter; but referred me to Dr. Nash, a clerical antiquarian. Hunt, at Cheltenham, had pointed him out to me as brother-in-law to Martin, the *starling*; and had intimated, that Martin's tongue might be regulated by the motions of Nash in Worcester cathedral.—This hint to Thurlow. But Thurlow is such a bear! What a breakfast for a whale, if he, Stafford, and his *amiable* wife, and the metropolitan, and his wife, had been drowned in their watry excursion at Scarborough! I filled up their
places,

places, in imagination, on the first hint of such a possibility.

I felt a pang at being informed the last monarch who visited Worcester was James II. The Henrys, and the Edwards, were familiar in every important part of their dominions ; and they honored this place with their presence at great and solemn festivals. But the most memorable and melancholy event of this region, is the arrival and defeat of Charles II.—Pitt and Jenkinson are ever associating Oliver Cromwell and Charles Fox ; but I own I cannot see the similitude.

I received the address of the corporation and clergy. I did not want to be informed they were at my devotion. Worcester has been among the foremost in addressing the crown on all occasions. In the commencement of the American war, and in every effort for its continuance, it exhibited its courtly fervility. What a group of magistrates and aldermen !—several of them have been found guilty of bribery at different elections ! The corporation always supports
a nabob,

a nabob, or a creature of administration. It is much under the influence of Coventry, who is the recorder; and he is particularly devoted to me, in the hopes that my conduct to George, may justify his cruelty to Deerhurst. But George has not yet a step-mother; and the nation would not endure in him the fate of poor Deerhurst.

THURSDAY, 7.

VISITED the ground on which the battle of Worcester was fought; but had not spirits to examine it. Would have seen the royal oak; but was informed it was at too great a distance; that the tree was dead: and an *beir apparent* sprouting up.—I have no fancy for heirs apparent.

FRIDAY, 8.

RECEIVED the trades, with their ridiculous insignia. I like the produce of trade; but I am of Hurd's opinion about tradesmen. Visited the china manufactory:—the place has an infernal appearance.
They

They tell me those large fires breed salamanders.—Must consult Banks upon the business. The man who described the works to me, carries tobacco in his mouth.—Charlotte says he smelt horribly. I find mixing with my people attended with many disagreeable circumstances.—God grant we may return safe to Windsor! The attendance at the church and concert had no novelty to me, whatever it had to the spectators.—I am soon tired of one place:

RECOL-

RECOLLECTION XXIII.

SATURDAY 9.

RETURNED to Cheltenham, where the people seemed tired of me. Sir James Harris in London ; and the Irish provost on his way here.—Sir James must be made a lord :—lords will be as ridiculous as Margaret Nicholson's knights. The nation is completely duped in the Dutch business.—We assisted the king of Prussia in cramming the privileges of the stadtholder into the throats of the Dutch ; without attending to the charge of having forfeited them.

Hutchinson is gasping for the chancellorship. He is an *Irish shark* ; insatiable in the pursuit of places and pensions ; and ready for any services to obtain them :—but an Englishman must fill the place—Jenkinson says, he has the authority of Montesquieu for excluding the natives. We have walked to the theatre. It had a rural air ; but my sentiments are never rural !

Sunday,

Sunday, 11, Nothing.—Monday, 12, George's birth-day. I had some thoughts on parental love ; but I dismissed them. I am called the father of my people—in what sense ?

CONCLUDING RECOLLECITON.

THE 13th, 14th, and 15th, I passed in visits to the bishop of Salisbury, Sir George Paul, and Martin the *starling*, near Tewkesbury: very different characters, according to Hunt. The first was formed in a puritanic mould: his father and mother being strict dissenters; but the children have understood their interest better; and the bishop, in the true spirit of a 'renegado, has opposed every extension of indulgence to his father's friends:—this proves the sincerity of his conversion! Sir George is an ostentatious mechanic; and Martin is vain of his apparent honesty. Jenkinson says, he affords a good *test of practicability* in the house; for voting always by confidence, and not by judgment, when an artifice reaches *his* understanding, it is too gross to pass; and it is high time to withdraw it: but the political constitution may be frittered into a thousand atoms before such understandings perceive the danger. I wish we had
more

more such *honest men* ! I highly like Hunt's sketches of Gloucestershire cl. a actors.

SATURDAY, 16.

RETURNED to Windsor ; and suspended my Recollections to another excursion.

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